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SUSTAINING

UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS (#93)

Deep

MARCH 9, 1934

FRIDAY

ANCHOR: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers."

MUSICA: RANGER SONG

ANCHOR: Yes siree, folks, they're back! Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers are back with us today.

Last night about ten o'clock Ranger Jim Robbins and his wife Bess, returned to the Pine Cone Ranger Station. Farm and Home Hour friends of Jim and Bess Robbins will recall that last December he was detailed to take charge of a winter camp on a distant National Forest and the Pine Cone Ranger Station was closed. During Jim's absence Bess has been visiting at the home of her Aunt Bertha and Jerry Quick, Jim's assistant, was put in charge of the work at a Civilian Conservation Camp down south. Now with the approach of Spring, Jim has returned to his station to prepare for the busy field season which will soon be upon him. As we look in on them this morning Jim and Bess have just finished breakfast and are ready to get into the harness again around the ranger station. Here we are --

JIM: Well, Bess, how does it seem to be home again?

BESS: Oh, Jim, I was never so glad to see any place in all my life. I had a lovely visit with Aunt Bertha, but - Oh, it's good to be home again. I wouldn't trade it for any other place in the world.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) That goes for me too. There's no place like home.

BESS: (SOLICITOUSLY) Jim, did you have a terrible place to stay?

JIM: Oh, no! We had a fine camp - as camps go. The army officers were thorough gentlemen, and the forest officers were a fine upstanding bunch of men. It was a pleasure to work with them. But didn't it get horribly monotonous, Jim?

JIM: (LAUGHS) I'd hardly call it that, Bess. When a fellow has to work from long before daylight until far into the night to keep ahead of his job, he can't complain about monotony - no - with 200 of those lively boys to supervise, there was plenty going on all the time.

BESS: And so you never missed me at all!

JIM: (PROTESTING) Oh, now Bess. Do you think things have to become monotonous before I'd miss you?

BESS: (LAUGHS) Jim, I never can get the best of you.

JIM: Well - I guess the first thing - I'd better call up the Supervisor and let him know I'm here. I wired him I expected to get here today.

BESS: And Jim, while you're working around the office today - well I think I'll work right here too! - My heavens, look at the dust!

5172: I was afraid of that. (CHUCKLES) Hadn't you better let sleeping
5173: just lie, for the time being?

5183: Jim Robbins! - Here, I'll unpack your suitcase -

5184: (LAUGHS) My! What service - well, I sure missed it on the trip
(RINGS PHONE) - Hello - I want Supervisor Ellsworth's office
in Willow Glen - Oh hello there, Judith, how's everything down
there on the switchboard - I'll say you're pretty good picking
out my voice after I've been away two months - It's just like
a summer day here too --

5185: Don't forget to say "hello" to her for me, Jim.

5186: (STILL PHONING) - and Bess says to say "hello" for her - all
right Judith. Say, do you 'spose you could get the Supervisor's
office for me? - (TO BESS) Well, somebody's glad to see us back,
Bess.

5187: Land sakes, it sure feels good --

5188: (TO PHONE) Hello - Bert? Yep, this is Jim - Last night - I
stopped by and got Bess and the two of us got here about ten -
it was too late or I'd have stopped in your office on the way
through Willow Glen. - Thanks, Bert and we're mighty glad to be
back, too -

5189: Ask him how Mrs. Ellsworth is.

(PHONING) How's everything down your way, Bert? - Bess wants to know how the Mrs. is - Fine, that's fine - No - I haven't looked at the mail yet, Bert - I have a stack of it here, though - Say, heard anything from Jerry? - What - today? Good! Good! The Pine Cone wouldn't be the same without that kid around - Just like summer here to - (serious) Hmm. That's what I'm afraid of -- too good to last - it looks like a weather breeder to me, too. -- Okay Bert. I'll look for you then, Goodbye. (HANGS UP)

BESS: Jim Robbins! Look at these socks - not a pair without a hole in them - why -

(KNOCK ON THE DOOR AND MARY RUSHES IN)

MARY: Hello! Hello! Anybody here?

BESS: Well, land alive - Mary Halloway! - say, you are looking fine - How have you been? (KISS)

MARY: (EXCITED) Oh I'm so glad to see you Mrs. Robbins - I just had to stop on my way to school to see if you got back all right -- Is -- is anybody else here?

JIM: (SLIGHTLY OFF) Well, now, I'm here

MARY: (APOLOGETIC) Oh Mr. Robbins - I hardly noticed you away over there in the corner at your desk.

JIM: You didn't, eh? - Well, Mary - come here and let me get a good look at you.

MARY: Goodness, I'm glad to see you Mr. Robbins - Did you have a good trip?

JIM: Well, we had a busy time in camp - Mary -

MARY: But I suppose you're glad to get back home

JIM: (MOOD SERIOUS) Well - yes - but of course it won't be the same since they've transferred Jerry away.

MARY: (STARTLED) Oh! - Oh! - You mean - Jerry's gone for -

BESS: (CUTTING IN) Now see here Jim Robbins, don't you tell her any such thing - Jerry isn't here, Mary, but we expect him sometime today - probably this morning.

MARY: (RELIEVED) Mr. Robbins - you haven't changed a bit. I thought it was funny, because I got a letter from Jerry just yesterday and he said he expected to get a ride up today - so there.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well, now, you know more about Jerry than I do -

MARY: (SERIOUS) Oh no - but Jerry said he'd -

BESS: Come, come Mary - don't mind him.

JIM: (CHANGING SUBJECT) Say, young lady - turn around - Hmm, you're losing weight, aren't you? School teaching must --

BESS: Jim Robbins!

MARY: (LAUGHING) Oh, thank you, Mr. Robbins - but to be frank, I think I gained a pound or so while you folks were away. -- But I must be getting to school or I'll be late.

BESS: Child - aren't you wearing any coat?

MARY: (SURPRISED) Oh my no - It's so warm out - its just beautiful Oh I do hope we're going to have an early spring this year.

JIM: (SERIOUS) Hmm. Well I don't know about this early summer weather it's not liable to last very long.

MARY: Well, I must run along - I'll see you later - goodbye.

BESS: (CALLING) Say, Mary - Why don't you drop over and have supper with us tonight - Jerry ought to be here by that time and the four of us will have a good old fashioned get-together.

1187 (HESITATES) Oh thank you so much Mrs. Robbins - you bet I'll come -- I'll come over right after school and help you.

1188 (CHUCKLING) Hum. - An old fashioned get-together, did you say, Bess? - Almost a family reunion I'd call it.

1189 I just must be going - and Mrs. Robbins - when you straighten up the house - you - (HESITATING) You won't have to bother about fixing Jerry's room. I - I happened to pass by yesterday - and thought I'd save you some trouble - so I tidied up that room. - Goodbye (SOUND OF DOOR)

1190 (CHUCKLING) Hum - A touch o' spring weather certainly works wonders --

1191 Now you go ahead with your work, Jim - and I'll work right here if I won't bother you - I just can't get over your socks having so many holes in them, though.

1192 Well, Bess, you know things will collect a few holes now and then when you're away from home.

1193 Just look at this pair - who darned this?

1194 Lev's sec. (PROUDLY) Oh, that pair? - I did - pretty good job too, don't you think? - (CHUCKLES) The first month or so, I kind took charge of them myself - but when I figured I had enough to last me till I got home - Well, I just sorta put the socks with the holes in them to one side.

1195 Why, it's terrible. I hope no one ever sees that darnin' and thinks I did it.

1196 Oh Bess, here's a letter from Jerry in with the mail here - (TEARS IT OPEN) -- Just a line --

BESS: Well, what does he say?

JIM: Says he hopes to be here Friday - that's today - and he closes with "and please tell Mrs. Hookins to have a big piece of apple pie ready."

BESS: (SERIOUS) Land takes apple pie and there isn't an apple in the house. Jim, you'll have to go down to the store and get some groceries before we can have dinner.

JIM: All right. Just as soon as I finish sorting this mail - say why don't you open that door and let in some of this spring sunshine? Might as well enjoy it while we can.

BESS: Goodness yes, we're so used to keeping all closed up (SOUND OF OPENING DOOR) There - isn't it just lovely?

BESS: (EXCITED) Jim - Jim - up the road - there he comes now --

JIM: (EXCITED) Who - Who Bess - (SOUND OF PUSHING BACK HIS CHAIR) -- No, gone, it's Jerry --

JERRY: (OFF - CALLS) Hi, folks -

JIM: (CALLING) Hi - Jerry - Welcome home --

JERRY: (COMING UP) How are you? Gee it's good to see you.

BESS: We're so glad to see you Jerry. My how well you look!

JERRY: (LAUGHING) Bad penny always comes back. When did you get back Jim?

JIM: Last night - just beat you by a hair.

JERRY: Surprised to see me? I'm earlier than I expected - caught a ride.

BESS: We sure are surprised - we were just talking about you - Jim had just finished reading your letter --

JIM: (LAUGHING) And Bess was just getting ready to bake your apple pie.

JERRY: (EXCLAIMS) Good enough! Gosh isn't this great weather --

JIM: Yes, great weather -- but I'm glad we've got the horses up --

JERRY: Oh, they here?

JIM: Yeah, the Supervisor had them sent up when he heard we were coming.

JERRY: I'm going out and see Spark - s'pose he'll know me?

BESS: I'm sure he will -- take him some sugar.

JERRY: Guess I will --

BESS: Wait - why don't you take your suitcase to your room, Jerry.

It's all ready --

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Yes, thanks to a certain school marm.

JERRY: Oh has Mary been here already today? -- How is she?

BESS: Prettier than ever.

JIM: She is that, Jerry - (LAUGHS) - Now if I weren't a married man --

BESS: Jim Robbins - you must be in good humor today - but just the same

JERRY: Listen, Mrs. Robbins - just look at Jim's face - he's as glad to be back as I am - he wouldn't trade his position --

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, maybe not. - I'd look into that room, Jerry. Maybe somebody left some sugar there for you.

(THEY ALL LAUGH)

JERRY: (GOING OFF) That's worth looking into -- (DOOR SLAMS)

BESS: Do you think she really did leave something there for him?

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Shouldn't wonder. They do such things - Well, maybe I'd better "mosey" down to the store and get those groceries.

(DOOR OPENS)

JERRY: (BURSTING IN, EXCITED) Look folks, look what I found on my dresser -

BESS: (ENTHUSIASTICALLY) Oh - oh Jerry - a lovely new picture of Mary - and what a beautiful frame - why --

JERRY: Ain't it a peach!

JIM: Well now - that is a picture - she sure is pretty

BESS: That explains why she --

JIM: She must've got Ranger Jones to let her in. Jones was by here yesterday, I reckon.

BESS: Isn't she sweet?

JERRY: Yeah, and this box of homemade candy was right beside it with this note on it

BESS: It says (READS) "Welcome home Jerry - want something sweet?" --

JERRY: You bet I do! I'm going right down to the school (GOING OFF)
So long -- (SLAMS DOOR)

BESS AND JIM LAUGH

BESS: Why I never saw Jerry so excited in all my life --

JIM: (CHUCKLES) I guess they both kind a missed each other.

BESS: I hope Jerry brought her something --

JIM: Say, by gosh, Bess when you unpacked my suitcase did you find a package.

BESS: Why yes, there was - I laid it over there in the chair.

JIM: Yeah, that's it. (APOLOGETICALLY) There, Bess, that's something for you.

BESS: Why Jim Robbins - what in the world is it? - all done up in tissue paper too! (SOUND OF TAKING PAPER OFF BOX)

JIM: Oh just a - well, kind of present, I guess --

BESS: Oh Jim -- Gracious, all this paper - - (TEARING PAPER)

JIM: Now, Bess, love it away - you'll think this was the first present I ever gave you

BESS: Oh, isn't that lovely - just - just what is it?

JIM: Well, now if you --

BESS: Oh I see - (PIEDS UP - MUSICAL POWDER BOX AND IT BEGINS TO PLAY) -- it's a musical powder box - Jim you are a dear!

JIM: (EMBARRASSED) Well, it ain't much - Just kinda caught my eye, and I thought that --

BESS: Where in the world did you get it? (BOX STILL PLAYING)

JIM: Well now, I must confess that an old critter like me was kinda embarrassed going up to the girl in the store and asking to see one of those -- (CHUCKLES) well, contraptions.

BESS: Why I think it's lovely!

(MUSIC TINKLING SOFTLY FOR FADEOUT)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

BESS: Jim, come here and look out the window, quick --

JIM: (SHOVING BACK CHAIR) What's the excitement?

BESS: Quick, Jim, I want you to see them - they're running and Jerry's got his arm around her. -- Isn't that cute?

JIM: Way that wind's starting to blow she needs something around her.

(SOUND MARY AND JERRY RUNNING UP ON THE PORCH DOOR BURSTS OPEN AND THEY COME IN BOTH LAUGHING AND BREATHLESS)

MARY: Br-r-r-r-r My it's getting chilly - that awful wind!

JERRY: (BREATHLESSLY) Gosh, Jim, it's turning cold.

JIM: (CHUCKLES TEASINGLY) I told Mary this morning she'd need something more around her --

BESS: We were watching you --

JERRY: How! - Honest Jim, it is getting cold.

JIM: Yes, I expected it - I'm glad we've got the horses up from pasture.

JERRY: I turned Spark out in the night lot this noon. It seemed too nice to keep him in the barn.

JIM: Well, you better run him in before we sit down to supper. It'll be snowing in an hour.

JERRY: You think so?

MARY: (DOUBTING) Oh, really, will it?

JIM: You know it's liable to blow hard too. -- Looks like a regular old timer to me.

BESS: I wonder if there's plenty of wood left in the shed?

JIM: Yes, I took a look at it this afternoon - I reckon I'd better bring some more into the house and fill the box while Jerry is tending the horses.

BESS: And some fireplace wood too, Jim --

JERRY: I'll take care of that.

MARY: And Mrs. Robbins and I will get supper ready --

JERRY: Okay -- (JIM AND JERRY EXIT - DOOR CLOSING)

MARY: Oh, isn't this going to be fun? I'm so glad you are all back.

BESS: Mary, that lovely picture of you --

MARY: Do you like it?

BESS: Oh, I think it's splendid - Jerry was so surprised and he was as tickled as --

MARY: (LAUGHING(FADE OUT)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(WIND HOWLING - WINDOWS RATTLING)

BESS: Just hear that wind. Every just seems stronger than the last one

JIM: Yeah, it's a bad one --

MARY: And just think this morning was like summer --

JIM: Well - you can't have summer days this time of year in that country without paying --

JERRY: Look at the fine snow blowing in around the window.

MARY: (STARTLED) Oh, my! My windows - I left them wide open this morning. I must go right over and shut them - Oh dear, my room will be just filled with snow

JIM: Most likely Mrs. Hard has closed them by now.

MARY: I must go -

BESS: My dear, let Jerry run over and do it.

JERRY: Sure - I'll go, you stay here, Mary.

MARY: No, I must go too - I just know everything will be ruined.

JERRY: Well, let's both go -- (LAUGHS) "We ain't afraid of the big bad" storm.

BESS: Here, my dear, put on my arctics and Jim, get her my sheeplined coat --

JIM: I think you're kind o' foolish, Mary - that wind's pretty strong -

MARY: I've got to go some time any way - I'm sorry to run off without helping you with those dishes --

BESS: Oh, never mind that - Here Jerry, help her with the arctics.

JERRY: Sure - here, stick out your foot.

BESS: And put this scar over your head and around your throat. There -

MARY: My, I'm so bundled up -- ready Jerry?

JERRY: Yeah! Wait till I pull these earlaps down - there, all set -
let's go -

(DOOR OPENS - WIND SHRIEKS LOUDER)

(DOOR SLAMS)

BESS: Isn't that terrible?

JIM: (GRAVELY) I hate to see these blizzards. It's so hard on
livestock. Poor critters out on the flats, don't have much
chance a night like this.

BESS: Yes, it's terrible - I hope Mary and Jerry make - You don't
suppose Jim, they ---

JIM: No, it's not over 400 yards down there and all down hill - if
Jerry finds the bridge all right.

BESS: I - I almost - thought I heard something -

JIM: Now, don't you start hearing things -

BESS: I did hear something (OPENS DOOR - WIND SHRIEKS LOUDER)
(JERRY AND MARY STUMBLE IN)

BESS: Mary, Jerry - (EXCLAMATIONS) Oh-oooooh My. Booo! Whew!

(DOOR SLAMS SHUT)

JERRY: Gosh all fish hooks! Boy! That's awful.

JIM: What happened Jerry?

JERRY: Gee, we couldn't make it, Jim.

MARY: We couldn't breathe - (LAUGHS) And Jerry fell down.

JIM: Looks like you been down too --

MARY: Well, I couldn't stand up when Jerry fell down.

BESS: Get those snowy things off and come up to the fire. Throw on
another log, Jim --

JERRY: Here, I will - (GRUNTS)

(SOUND DULL THUD OF LOG FALLING IN FIREPLACE)

MARY: (SHIVERS) Umm. I'm glad to get back to this fire.

JERRY: Good, Jim, there's a drift out by the gate that's three feet deep already. And that wind - I wouldn't go out again for good.

JIM: How far did you go? --

JERRY: No more'n a hundred feet beyond the gate - but it seems like a half a mile back to the house.

BESS: Well, it looks like we're all here for the night. I'm so glad you got back safely.

MARY: Oh dear, I wonder what's happened to my room --

JERRY: There's no way to get word down there.

JIM: No, let's just forget it and enjoy this fire - (WIND SHREKS LOUDER AND WINDOWS RATTLE) FADE OUT.

(MUSIC)

ANNOUNCER: On the western plains and mountains the early spring blizzards are a force to be reckoned with. They often-times cause great suffering besides damage and loss. We hope that next week we may learn some of the details of what is happening in this storm. And we know that if there's trouble or danger Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers will be on the job. Next week at this time, our Ranger friends will be with us again. This program is a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

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11:30 AM

